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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, D/CG

DATE: 22 May 1959

FROM : Acting Chief, GC/E

SUBJECT: Discussion of Olsztyn Region (East Prussia) project with
EUR-EE State, as requested by Ch/G

1. The proposed study was discussed in some detail with Richard E. Johnson, EUR-EE State, by [REDACTED] 20 May 1959. 25X1A9a

2. Mr. Johnson was especially interested in the importance of the area to Poland within her present boundaries and in factors which would make the Poles reluctant to give it up. He implied that the U.S. position in discussions of German peace settlement problems will favor Polish retention of the Olsztyn Region and indicated that a study of the type outlined would be a very useful reservoir of facts from which support for this or other policy positions could be drawn.

agree!

3. The comprehensive character of the outline received Johnson's approval, but he does not look with favor on our going deeply into political assessment and conjecture about possible future developments and their implications. He apparently feels that political assessment and the weighing of numerous possible future developments will be covered eventually in short, up-to-the-minute, State-prepared policy papers, and that our proposed study will be essentially geographic support for such papers.

4. The following were the subjects in which Johnson indicated a particular interest: Polish development projects in the area (especially those requiring heavy investment), changes in economic functions and market orientation resulting from cession of southern East Prussia to Poland, population factors (attitudes, resettlement, ethnic and linguistic groups, continuing exodus of Germans and autochthons), and irritants contributing to poor Soviet-Polish relations in the area (Soviet refusal to allow Poles to use Baltiysk Channel, poor cooperation from Soviets in flood control along frontier).

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25 MAY 1959